STATUS OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-20 **(previously canceled)**

21 (Currently Amended). A method of determining the strength of an agglutination reaction within a ~~hollow container~~ probe tip comprising walls capable of transmitting light at certain predetermined wavelengths, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a mixture of a liquid sample and an agglutinating reagent within a first cavity of the ~~container~~ probe tip, said cavity having a first inside diameter,

b) transferring the mixture to a second cavity having a second inside diameter substantially smaller than said first inside diameter,

c) scanning a 10% portion of the liquid within said second cavity during said step b) with a beam of light at said predetermined wavelengths, said 10% portion being that portion closest to said first cavity;

d) after said scanning step c), detecting the amount of light absorbed within or scattered by said 10% portion by said beam,

e) transferring said mixture back into said first cavity,

f) repeating steps b)-d) at least once until some agglutinated material has separated from non-agglutinated material, and

g) calculating the amount of agglutination from the absorbance or scattering detected in said step d).

22 (original). A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said transfer step moves the liquid down from the first cavity to said second cavity, so that gravity assists in said separation of step f).

Claim 23. (Previously Cancelled)

24 (original). A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said detecting step d) uses radiation at about 540 nm, the peak absorption wavelength of hemoglobin.

25 (original). A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said step d) comprises detecting the amount of scattered radiation, so that any hemolysis interference is avoided.

Claims 26-29. (Previously Cancelled)

30 (previously added). A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said liquid sample is whole blood.